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Sensor system for detecting a pedestrian collision

ABSTRACT

A sensor system for detecting a pedestrian collision in the front region of a motor vehicle has at least one fiber optic sensor that extends in the front region of the motor vehicle largely over the entire vehicle width. The fiber optic sensor is deformable by the collision of an object in the front region, a signal being generated by the fiber optic sensor owing to the collision with the object. In order to determine detection of a pedestrian collision in the front region of a motor vehicle having at least one fiber optic sensor for a reliable distinction between the collision of animate and inanimate objects, there is arranged in the front region of the motor vehicle, in addition to the fiber optic sensor, at least one infrared sensor that generates a signal for distinguishing between the collision of animate and inanimate objects.